

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

In re Rule 45 Subpoena Directed to Lycos, Inc.

Case No.: 2:21-mc-00021 RSL

Related Case No. 2:19-cv-02746-DWL
U.S. District Court, District of Arizona

**DEFENDANT GODADDY.COM,
LLC'S MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION TO
COMPEL RESPONSE TO RULE 45
SUBPOENA DIRECTED TO LYCOS,
INC.**

NOTED ON MOTION CALENDAR:
Friday, March 12, 2021

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2

3 Petitioner GoDaddy.com, LLC (“GoDaddy”) brings the instant motion to compel Lycos,
 4 Inc. (“Lycos”) to comply with GoDaddy’s document subpoena, which GoDaddy served on
 5 Lycos on January 21, 2021. The return date on the subpoena was February 4, 2021, and to date,
 6 Lycos has not objected to the subpoena, or produced any documents in response to the subpoena.
 7 GoDaddy respectfully requests that the Court enter an order compelling Lycos to comply with
 8 this subpoena.

9 **II. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

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11 This motion arises out of a subpoena served upon Lycos on January 21, 2021, in a
 12 litigation matter entitled *SiteLock, LLC v. GoDaddy.com, LLC*, pending in the United States
 13 District Court for the District of Arizona (Case No.: 2:19-cv-02746-DWL) (the “SiteLock
 14 Action”). *See Declaration of Paula L. Zecchini (“Zecchini Decl.”) ¶¶ 1-6, Ex. A.* In the SiteLock
 15 Action, Plaintiff SiteLock, LLC (“SiteLock”), has asserted, *inter alia*, breach of contract claims
 16 related to a November 4, 2013 Reseller Agreement (“Reseller Agreement”) between GoDaddy
 17 and SiteLock, which, in part, authorized GoDaddy to promote SiteLock’s off-the-rack software
 18 products. Zecchini Decl. ¶ 2. GoDaddy’s Answer to SiteLock’s Complaint includes an
 19 affirmative defense for set-off, *see* Dkt. No. 13 at 14,¹ which is based in part on SiteLock’s
 20 breach of a most favored nation (“MFN”) provision in the Reseller Agreement that obligated
 21 SiteLock to ensure that GoDaddy was afforded “the lowest [pricing terms] offered by SiteLock
 22 or any of its affiliates.” Dkt. No. 1-2, at 8; Zecchini Decl. ¶ 3. In the SiteLock Action, GoDaddy
 23 sought discovery related to its defense based on SiteLock’s breach of the MFN provision, and
 24 SiteLock ultimately produced—under a Court Order compelling their production—third party
 25 reseller agreements that included SiteLock’s contract with Lycos. Zecchini Decl. ¶ 4. That

26 ¹ Citations to the docket are to the corresponding entries in the SiteLock Action.

1 agreement indicates that SiteLock gave Lycos more favorable pricing terms than GoDaddy. *Id.*
 2 at ¶ 5. Therefore, GoDaddy served the subpoena on Lycos to obtain limited, narrow discovery
 3 from Lycos regarding (1) the lowest pricing terms SiteLock gave to Lycos, and (2) the features
 4 of the SiteLock products Lycos offered.² See Zecchini Decl. ¶ 6, Ex. A. On January 6, 2021,
 5 the Court in the SiteLock Action denied SiteLock’s motion for protective order which
 6 concerned, in part, third party document subpoenas GoDaddy had served on other entities
 7 seeking the same categories of information sought in the Lycos subpoena. See Dkt. No. 248;
 8 Zecchini Decl. ¶ 9.

9 The time specified for compliance in the subpoena that GoDaddy served on Lycos was
 10 February 4, 2021. Zecchini Decl. ¶ 6, Ex. A. The location specified for compliance was
 11 “Produce electronically to Paula Zecchini, Cozen O’Connor, 999 Third Avenue, Suite 1900,
 12 Seattle, WA 98104 at PZecchini@cozen.com.” *Id.* Lycos has not, to date, produced any
 13 documents in response to the subpoena, or served any response or objection to the subpoena. *Id.*
 14 at ¶ 8. SiteLock has not, to date, served any objection or responses to the subpoena, nor has it
 15 made any effort to address the subpoena with GoDaddy, either independently or on Lycos’s
 16 behalf. *Id.* at ¶ 9.

17 III. **LEGAL STANDARD**

19 The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure allow a party to obtain from a non-party discovery
 20 materials of any non-privileged matter that is relevant to a claim or defense of any party. See
 21 Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 45(a)(1)(C); Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 26(b)(1). The “scope of discovery through a
 22 subpoena is the same as that applicable to Rule 34 and other discovery rules.” *Gonzales v.*
 23 *Google, Inc.*, 234 F.R.D. 674, 679 (N.D. Cal. 2006); *see also Lewin v. Nackard Bottling Co.*,
 24 No. CV 10-8041-PCT-FJM, 2010 WL 4607402, at *1 n.1 (D. Ariz. Nov. 4, 2010). Relevance

25 ² Although the products in the Lycos agreement have the same names as the products in
 26 SiteLock’s agreement with GoDaddy, SiteLock has argued that identically named products may
 have different features.

1 is “construed broadly to encompass any matter that bears on, or that reasonably could lead to
 2 other matter that could bear on, any issue that is or may be in the case.” *Berwick v. Hartford*
 3 *Fire Ins. Co.*, No. MC 12-00055-PHX-FJM, 2012 WL 2856117, at *1 (D. Ariz. July 11, 2012)
 4 (quoting *Oppenheimer Fund, Inc. v. Sanders*, 437 U.S. 340, 351 (1978) (quotation marks
 5 omitted)).

6 Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(d)(2)(B) requires that the recipient of a subpoena *duces tecum* serve
 7 any objections to it within 14 days after service or before the time specified for compliance,
 8 whichever is earlier. “[F]ailure to timely object waives the right to object later.” *Cen Com Inc.*
 9 *v. Numerex Corp.*, No. C17-0560 RSM, 2018 WL 1737943, at *2 (W.D. Wash., Apr. 11, 2018);
 10 *see also Voxpath RS, LLC v. LG Elecs. U.S.A., Inc.*, No. MC 13-004- TUC-CKJ, 2013 WL
 11 5744045, at *3 (D. Ariz. Oct. 23, 2013) (“[A] nonparty’s failure to timely make objections to a
 12 Rule 45 subpoena *duces tecum* generally requires the court to find that any objection has been
 13 waived.”); *Avila v. Cate*, No. 1:09cv918-LJO-SKO, 2013 WL 428732, at *2-3 (E.D. Cal. Feb.
 14 1, 2013) (same); *McCoy v. Sw. Airlines Co., Inc.*, 211 F.R.D. 381, 385 (C.D. Cal. 2002) (same).
 15 “Upon failing to obey a lawful subpoena without an adequate excuse, a recipient may be held in
 16 contempt.” *Malden Transportation, Inc. v. Uber Technologies, Inc.*, No. C18-1592RSM, 2018
 17 WL 5808422, at *1 (W.D. Wash., Nov. 6, 2018) (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(g)).

18 **IV. LYCOS MUST PRODUCE RESPONSIVE DOCUMENTS**

19 Lycos was served with GoDaddy’s subpoena on January 21, 2021. *See Zecchini Decl.* ¶
 20 6, Ex. A. The subpoena required that Lycos produce documents by February 4, 2021. *See id.*
 21 As such, Lycos’s objections or responses to the subpoena were due on or before February 4,
 22 2021. To date, Lycos has failed to provide any response to the subpoena. *See id.* at ¶ 8. Lycos
 23 has therefore waived all grounds for objection. *See McCoy*, 211 F.R.D. at 385; *see also Voxpath*
 24 *RS, LLC*, 2013 WL 5744045, at *3; *United States ex rel. Schwartz v. TRW, Inc.*, 211 F.R.D. 388,
 25 392 (C.D. Cal. 2002); *Wade v. City of Fruitland*, 287 F.R.D. 638, 641 (D. Idaho 2013). As such,
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1 Lycos should be ordered to comply with the subpoena. *Malden Transportation, Inc.*, 2018 WL
 2 5808422, at *2 (granting motion to compel out-of-district subpoenaed documents when recipient
 3 failed to object or move to quash or modify subpoenas). Allowing a subpoena recipient to
 4 disregard a subpoena in its entirety would render Rule 45 a nullity and enable recipients to openly
 5 disobey a court order. *See, e.g., United States Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Hyatt*, 621 F.3d 687, 693
 6 (7th Cir. 2010) (explaining that a Rule 45 subpoena is a “court order subject to contempt
 7 sanctions if disobeyed”).

8 Although Lycos waived any and all objections to the subpoena, if Lycos files a response,
 9 Lycos may attempt to argue that the subpoena did not command production of documents within
 10 “100 miles of where the person resides, is employed, or regularly transacts business in person.”
 11 Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 45(c)(2)(A). Such an objection would be meritless. First, Lycos waived any
 12 objection under that rule. *See Sol v. Whiting*, No. CV-10-01061-PHX-SRB 2014 WL 12526314,
 13 at *2 (D. Ariz., July 22, 2014) (concluding that defendant waived objection to subpoena and
 14 stating “nothing in Rule 45 or elsewhere suggests that the rules for asserting timely objections
 15 do not apply when the 100-mile rule is the basis for an objection”). Second, “numerous courts
 16 have compelled compliance with a subpoena duces tecum that required the production of
 17 documents more than 100 miles from where the recipient resided, worked, or regularly
 18 transacted business.” *Sol*, 2014 WL 12526314, at *2; *See also Walker v. Ctr. for Food Safety*,
 19 667 F. Supp. 2d 133, 138 (D.D.C. 2009) (“[T]he 100 mile limit applies to travel by a subpoenaed
 20 person, but a person commanded to produce documents need not appear in person at the place
 21 of production or inspection.” (internal quotation marks omitted)); *Jett v. Penner*, No. S02-2036
 22 GEBJFMP, 2007 WL 127790, at *2 (E.D. Cal. Jan. 12, 2007) (holding subpoenaed party was
 23 not excused on the ground that the requested records were located more than 100 miles from the
 24 place they were to be produced when there was no requirement to travel to deliver the records).
 25 This is particularly true when the subpoena at issue requests that documents be provided
 26 electronically. *Cen Com Inc.*, 2018 WL 1737943, at *2 (holding subpoenas complied with Rule

1 45 because “[t]hey do not ask the individuals to travel more than 100 miles from where they live
 2 or work; rather, Defendants have requested that the documents be provided electronically”); *see*
 3 also *Curtis v. Progressive Northern Insurance Company*, No. CIV-17-1076-C, 2018 WL
 4 2976432, at *2 (W.D. Okla., June 13, 2018) (granting motion to compel when the “subpoena at
 5 issue [did] not require the travel or attendance of any witnesses and Plaintiff [was] requesting
 6 the production of electronic documents.”).

7 Further, the subpoena set forth targeted, limited document requests to obtain information
 8 that is critical to GoDaddy’s defenses to SiteLock’s claims. In the SiteLock Action, GoDaddy
 9 contends that SiteLock gave better pricing terms to other reseller partners in direct violation of
 10 SiteLock’s obligation to provide GoDaddy with the most favorable pricing terms. *See* Dkt. No.
 11 248 at 24-26 (denying SiteLock’s motion for protective order with regard to the type of
 12 information sought by the subpoena, and finding that it was relevant to GoDaddy’s defenses to
 13 SiteLock’s claims). The requests in the subpoena are specifically and narrowly targeted to
 14 individual SiteLock products set forth in Lycos’s reseller agreement with SiteLock, and merely
 15 demand documents “sufficient to show” (1) if SiteLock ever agreed to pricing terms with Lycos
 16 below the terms set forth in Lycos’s contract with SiteLock, and (2) the features of those
 17 products. Lycos should therefore be directed to fully comply with the subpoena.

18 **V. CONCLUSION**

19 WHEREFORE, GoDaddy respectfully requests that this Court issue an order compelling
 20 Lycos to produce all documents responsive to the requests in the subpoena within ten (10) days
 21 of the resolution of this motion.

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1 DATED: February 25, 2021

COZEN O'CONNOR

3 By: s/ Paula L. Zecchini
4 By: s/ Sydney R. Hitchcock

Paula L. Zecchini, WSBA No. 48266
E-mail: pzeccchini@cozen.com
Nathan Dooley, *pro hac vice to follow*
E-mail: ndooley@cozen.com
Sydney R. Hitchcock, WSBA No. 55426
E-mail: sydneyhitchcock@cozen.com

7 999 Third Avenue, Suite 1900
8 Seattle, Washington 98104
9 Telephone: 206.340.1000
Toll Free Phone: 800.423.1950
Facsimile: 206.621.8783

10 Attorneys for Defendant GoDaddy.com, LLC.
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DEFENDANT GODADDY.COM, LLC'S MEMORANDUM OF
LAW IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO COMPEL RESPONSE TO
RULE 45 SUBPOENA DIRECTED TO LYCOS, INC. - 7

LAW OFFICES OF
COZEN O'CONNOR
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
999 THIRD AVENUE
SUITE 1900
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104
(206) 340-1000

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 I hereby certify that I served the foregoing document via electronic mail on February
3 25, 2021, and due to COVID-19 restrictions via overnight mail on February 26, 2021, to the
4 following:

5 Thomas A. Gilson
6 Beus Gilbert PLLC
7 701 N. 44th Street
8 Phoenix, Arizona 85008
9 (480) 429-3000
10 tgilson@beusgilbert.com

11 Counsel for Plaintiff

12 Kevin B. Huff
13 Thomas G. Schultz
14 Leslie V. Pope
15 Kellogg, Hansen, et al.
16 1615 M Street, N.W. Suite 400
17 Washington, DC 20036
18 (202) 326-7900
19 khuff@kellogghansen.com
20 tschultz@kellogghansen.com
21 lpope@kellogghansen.com

22 I further certify that the foregoing documents have been sent out for personal service,
23 and due to COVID-19 restrictions were also served via overnight mail on February 26, 2021
24 on the following:

25 Lycos, Inc.
26 177 Huntington Ave., Suite 1703
27 Boston, MA 02115

28 DATED: February 25, 2021

29 COZEN O'CONNOR

30 By: s/ Paula Zecchini
31 Paula Zecchini